

# **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK**

## **Policy Council Minutes April 23, 2003**

### **Members/Representatives Present:**

- Bruce Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Board of Supervisors Representative
- Paula Roby, Department of Behavioral Health
- Andy Gruchy, Department of Behavioral Health
- Susan Melanson, Children's Network
- Dennis Hansberger, Supervisor 3<sup>rd</sup> District
- Carol Anselmi, HSS Administration
- Cathy Cimbalo, Director of Department of Children's Services
- Rudy Lopez, Director of Behavioral Health Services
- Joyce Lewis, Department of Behavioral Health Services
- Gerald Farber, Public Defender Office
- Elaine Zucco, First 5 San Bernardino
- Ray Wingerd, Chief of Probation
- Narciso Cardona, SBCUSD
- Terry Kramer, Department of Behavioral Health
- Eric Frykman, Department of Public Health
- Karen Bell, District Attorney – Juvenile
- Julian Weaver, SBCSS
- Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
- Cory Nelsen, Child Support Services
- Jim Felten, Department of Public Health
- Cindy Blum, Department of Children's Services
- Claudia Spencer, Department of Public Health
- Ivy Lewis, LLU – ERU – Consultant
- Suzanne Montgomery, LLU – ERU – Consultant
- Linda Levisen, Department of Public Health
- Kent Paxton, Children's Network Officer
- Bonnie Konowitch, Children's Network
- Tammy Williams, Children's Network

The meeting of the Children's Network Policy Council was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and convened by Supervisor Hansberger in the Citrus Room, fifth floor, County Government Center.

## **1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Supervisor Hansberger welcomed those present and self-introductions were made.

## **2.0 Approval of Agenda**

A motion was made to approve the agenda as read.

## **3.0 Approval of March Minutes**

The March 26, 2003 minutes were approved as submitted.

## **4.0 Information Items**

### **4.1 Children's Fund Report**

They are in the middle of getting ducks adopted. The annual Children's Fund Rubber Duck Race is Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Guasti Regional Park at 2 p.m. Bonnie mentioned they would be having a family festival from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and invited everyone to adopt their duck if they haven't already and to come out and see your duck race. As of now the status of the teams is: Inland Regional Center is in the lead; Department of Children's Services and Department of Behavioral Health are neck and neck; Probation, Public Health and Preschool Services need to get on the ball and get more ducks adopted.

### **4.2 Children's Policy Council Priority: Braided Funding**

Kent Paxton referred everyone to the handouts in their packets for Braided Funding. The information listed shows how different funding streams for; Department of Behavioral Health, HSS (Human Services System) Administration/Child Welfare Services, Public Health, and Probation. There already is substantial collaboration with partners through grant coordination, in-kind matches with partners, etc. The information in the packets is for your information. This item will be brought back for future agendas.

### **4.3 Children's Policy Council Priority: Parenting Matrix**

Susan Melanson referred everyone to the matrix in their packets. Surveys were mailed out to agencies County wide asking them if they would have space, staff, and an interest to have a parent drop in center. Also they were asked if they have parenting classes and if there is a waiting list. Susan reported she has gotten a large response to date. The plan is to match the agencies that have a location, but no staff with those who have staff but no facility, and who want to have a parent drop in center. The facilitator of the group might be MSW intern level to assist parents in a group to brainstorm how to handle crisis issues. A lot of the agencies surveyed were interested in

getting a final report and felt it was a good project. Susan mentioned another possibility would be to speak with the CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention Intervention Treatment) contractors to see if they would be willing to do a peer review of each others' parenting programs. Susan mentioned if you would like to see some other parenting issues addressed to please contact her. It was suggested to gather this resource data and put it in a matrix to share with County Schools and on the HSS Resource Directory. A suggestion made was to add the telephone number and fee for service to the matrix. The parent drop in center is a place parents can go to for advice from a professional and/or paraprofessional for parenting issues. Another question asked are specialized areas being addressed such as teen pregnancy and parenting?

#### **4.4 Group Home Needs Assessment**

Kent Paxton referred everyone to the Group Home Needs Assessment materials in their packets. Each year, HSS Administration staff sends out a Group Home Needs Assessment to members of the community for their response. The results from the needs assessment are developed into a work plan. It was mentioned that it takes considerable follow-up to get responses. The responses from the Group Home Needs Assessment will be brought back in June 2003.

### **5.0 Discussion/Action Items**

#### **5.1 Teen Pregnancy Prevention Resolution: Discussion/Action requested to Recommend to the Board of Supervisors A Resolution in support of the "It's Up to Me" campaign to support teen pregnancy reduction efforts**

Kent Paxton referred to the resolution in the packets; May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention month. In 1994 Children's, Network collaborated with Children's Fund and Public Health to get a 7 year grant from CDC (Centers for Disease Control). The purpose was to educate and reduce teen pregnancy birth rates in this county. Since 1991, the statistics show a 38% reduction in teen pregnancy rates. Originally this county was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest county in teen births and had 5 times the national rate. There has been some reduction recorded by ethnicity, Caucasian, Hispanic, and African American. The teens are educated on lifestyle choices. The data shows for Hispanics it is a cultural difference. It was mentioned that there is still a need to continue the efforts to prevent teen pregnancy.

Linda Levisen mentioned it really is a collaborative effort to keep the teen pregnancy rates down through focus on youth development. Some ways to assist the teens are; to have after school programs, good educational programs promoting college, working with the faith-based churches, working with TAD (Transitional Assistance Department) and the YESS program, and

basically teaching the teens to be more responsible. Linda mentioned that on May 13<sup>th</sup> in the Rotunda at the County Government Center between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. local agencies will be providing materials on teen pregnancy prevention and youth awareness programs. Linda mentioned that on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> Senator Nell Soto is holding a workshop on Teen Pregnancy Prevention; the public is invited.

Discussion about contributing factors led to the following ideas: one on one case management, community groups providing activities, involvement of parents through communication, making sure youth know they are valued, etc. Some of the survey data shows that teens really want to hear about sex from their parents and not peers. It takes a comprehensive approach to get teens to delay sexual activity, such as working with younger siblings who have older siblings that are pregnant or are parenting. Ivy Lewis mentioned they have data and a presentation ready to present, contact Kent Paxton if you are interested.

A motion was made to accept the resolution as presented and Supervisor Hansberger will carry it forward to the Board of Supervisors agenda for the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Supervisor Hansberger asked the question, “How does a Board Resolution help you?” Susan Melanson responded the Board Resolution is shared with cities to get them to join the county in child abuse prevention efforts. Children’s Network staff attend the City Council meetings where the Resolutions are issued and then are given child abuse prevention materials to use in their cities. Linda Levisen mentioned that there would be teens from each supervisor district when the Board Resolution is adopted on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The teens involved will see that they are valued and appreciated and that trickles down to other youth. Linda mentioned that it would assist their media efforts for public awareness of the issues dealing with teen pregnancy prevention. The teens are taught they do have the right to say no even after the first time. Kent mentioned he gets calls on a regular basis from the press and has had some very good press coverage on issues affecting youth. Supervisor Hansberger thanked the members for the information.

**5.2 Group Home Rate Increase for Children’s Hope Group Home:  
Discussion/Action requested to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors recommending a rate increase from an RCL 6 to an RCL 8 for the Children’s Hope Group Home**

Kent Paxton thanked Cindy Blum and the ICPC (Inter County Placement Committee) for their hard work and recommendations for their dedication to quality group homes in this county. **Action: A motion was made to forward the request for a letter of support for the rate increase to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.**

**5.3 Group Home Rate Increase for Riverstones Group Home: Discussion/**

**Action requested to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors recommending a rate increase from an RCL 11 to an RCL 12 for the Riverstones Group Home**

Kent Paxton reported that this group home is currently providing services at a level 12 and is highly recommended for placements. **Action: A motion was made to forward the request for a letter of support for the rate increase to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.**

**6.0 Other**

Kent Paxton reported next month the CAPIT contracts for 2003/04 will be on agenda for action and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Kent is also involved with the Strategic Plan for Child/Family Behavioral Health Service System. He is working with Program Development staff on a Decision Tree that will be very helpful for line staff.

Susan Melanson directed everyone to the Save The Date card for the Children's Network Annual Conference on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Ontario Convention Center with the keynote speaker, Erin Gruwell. She asked everyone to get the word out, and there will be a flyer insert to go in with pay stubs in July. The registration process is being worked out now. Note the price has been reduced from the \$125 last year to \$99 this year.

**7.0 Public Comment**

Meeting adjourned.

**8.0 Next Meeting will be May 28, 2003.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Tammy Williams  
Children's Network  
Policy Council Recording Secretary**

/tgw